Implementation of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection for seventeen categories of polluting industries;

Regular monitoring for environmental compliance; and

Issuance of direction and legal notices to defaulting units.

Amendment of Forest Conservation Act

†1994. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh where large chunk of land is covered by cold desert, cases of allotment of cultivated land (Nautaud) to many eligible and poor people are pending due to enforcement of provisions of Forest Conservation Act forcing them to live in worse conditions;

(b) if so, whether Government would propose to amend the provisions of Forest Conservation Act for the purpose of allowing special concession to the tribal areas, so that, the poor can make their livelihood;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 17 proposals involving diversion of 31.1496 hectares of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Revenue Department for further allotment as Nautor to landless/ marginal farmers were received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The State Government was requested to provide person-wise details of land proposed to be allotted along with copy of orders which permitted allotment of land as Nautor, and a copy of Himachal Pradesh Nautor Rules, 1968. The State Government was also requested to intimate the period during which such lands were allotted or came to be occupied by the beneficiaries. The aforesaid information has not yet been received from the State Government. Moreover, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has banned de-reservation of forest land vide order dated 13.11.2000 in I.A. No. 2 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines under FC Act, on 18th September 1990, for settlement of rights of forest dwellers including tribal which include, regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, and settlement of disputed claims of tribals like pattas, leases and grants etc. Since the provisions already exist in Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the guidelines, for settlement of rights of forest dwellers, there is no need to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Task force for waste lands

†1995. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any task force for producing greeneries in existing ravines of the country;

(b) if so, the details of action plan for providing water and conservation of land there;

(c) whether his Ministry has consulted with the Ministry of Home Affairs to carry out this work; and

(d) the details of existing revine lands in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Level Task Force for Rehabilitation of Ravinous Lands has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Task Force consists of seven members and the term of the Task Force is two years. The Task Force will be engaged in planning, monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation work in ravinous areas and also recommend the project proposals to the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB).

(c) and (d) Since the issue is related to land degradation, Ministry of Rural Development was consulted. The details of existing revinous lands in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.